

Tilden Appointed Office of Local and Rural Health Director

Chris Tilden was recently named the Director of the Office of Local and Rural Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). He has served as interim director of the office the last two years and replaces Dick Morrissey, who now serves as Deputy Director of Health at KDHE.



Chris Tilden

During Tilden's tenure as interim director, he continued to serve in his role of coordinator for the rural health program at KDHE where he managed the Rural Hospital Flexibility grant program, the Small Hospital Improvement Program grant, and the Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program grant. A new search will be undertaken to hire a coordinator for these federally funded grant programs.

Tilden looks forward to having the opportunity to continue to serve the broad variety of constituents that are touched by KDHE. "The staff in the Office Local and Rural Health are an amazing group of people with whom I feel very privileged to work. Along with our valued partners I think we can accomplish great things."

He has been working in the Office of Local and Rural Health since 2001. Prior to joining KDHE, he was a rural health consultant. His primary area of interest and expertise was community-based medical staff development planning and implementation. He provided education, training and consultation to rural organizations across the country looking to improve their efforts to recruit and retain a quality health care workforce.

Tilden, having lived in the largest of urban environments as well as rural America, has a passion for Kansas' open spaces. "I've had the pleasure to live in interesting places like Washington, DC and the Research Triangle area in North Carolina, but I always keep coming back to my roots. I was born in Kansas City but have lived in rural towns, medium sized -- like Salina -- and smaller, like Lindsborg. Rural Kansas is really where my heart is. When I moved back to Kansas 10 years ago with my family I took a job in Kansas City. It's a great city, but we wanted to live some place smaller. We chose Lawrence because of all it had to offer to young families. It's not rural, but we're glad to be there and to be close to our family and friends all across the state."

Chris lives in Lawrence with his wife Kathy and their two children.